

Prayer Alert

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As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways. (Isaiah 55:9)

We are pleased to enclose this week's edition of Prayer Alert.

Praying for Elections

Please pray for national and presidential elections taking place in Benin, Peru, and Hungary on Sunday 12 April.



JOIN US ON INTERSEED!

CONNECT – BLESS – GROW

We invite the Prayer Alert community to join us on the free online Interseed House of Prayer app where we are praying and sharing thoughts on the weekly prayer guide issues and themes.

Interseed is available on the Android and iOS platforms. More info [HERE](#).

Invitation - to serve with the PA team!

Would you like to join our Prayer Alert team?

We are a group of volunteers based in different parts of England, India, and USA. If you appreciate what we do and are confident with browsing the internet, discovering relevant articles and basic editing, we would love to hear from you! Please hit 'reply', introduce yourself, and we will be in touch.

Thank you for partnering with us in praying for the nations.

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert team.

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Praise Reports

Christian music wakes up astronauts

Christian music played a meaningful role during day six of NASA's Artemis II mission, as astronauts were awakened to the song 'Good Morning' by TobyMac and Mandisa. The moment was especially poignant because Mandisa died in April 2024, with TobyMac expressing gratitude and reflecting on the honour of their music reaching space. The wake-up playlist also included a variety of popular artists, creating an uplifting start to the crew's day. Victor Glover, who has been open about his Christian faith, used the mission's milestone near the moon to share a message centred on Christ's teaching. He reminded listeners that the greatest commandment is to love God fully and to love one another, even while exploring the vastness of space. Christian artist Anne Wilson also contributed to the mission by performing the national anthem at the launch, describing the opportunity as a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness and guidance through life's unexpected paths.

Praise: God that His name is lifted high even in space, declaring His love across creation. (Psalm 19:1)
More: www.faithwire.com/2026/04/07/tobymac-and-mandisa-wake-up-artemis-astronauts-on-day-6-of-their-journey/

Fame and success couldn't compare with falling in love with God

TV personality David Harper, known for Bargain Hunt and Antiques Roadshow, spent much of his life sceptical of Christianity, influenced by atheism in his upbringing, and drawn instead to alternative spiritual paths. Despite professional success, he found fame and material gain deeply unsatisfying, leaving him searching for meaning. The turning point came through his daughter's remarkable recovery from severe depression after encountering Jesus. Motivated to investigate, he undertook an eleven-month intellectual exploration of Christianity, applying the same rigour he used in historical research. He concluded that creation points to an intelligent designer and

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became persuaded of the historical reality of the resurrection. However, it was not evidence alone that changed him, but the undeniable transformation he saw in lives - including his daughter's and eventually his own. Harper now describes himself as born again, finding deep joy, purpose, and fulfilment in a personal relationship with Jesus - something he believes surpasses all worldly success.

Praise: God for transformed lives such as David's, revealing Jesus' power to save, heal, and bring lasting joy today. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
More: www.premierchristianity.com/testimonies/tv-fame-and-success-couldnt-satisfy-me-but-falling-in-love-with-god-changed-everything/21211.article

British Isles

Starmer seeks stability in Middle East as fragile ceasefire offers hope

Keir Starmer has travelled to Saudi Arabia to engage with Gulf allies following the two-week ceasefire between the USA and Iran. Although the visit was planned prior to the ceasefire announcement, it now carries added significance as diplomatic efforts focus on securing a lasting peace and reopening the vital Strait of Hormuz. Starmer said that while the ceasefire has brought a sense of relief, much work remains to ensure stability and restore freedom of navigation. He underlined the importance of keeping energy supplies flowing to stabilise global markets and UK prices. During his visit, he is also meeting British military personnel stationed in the region, expressing gratitude for their role in protecting national and allied interests. The prime minister reaffirmed the UK's position of not becoming directly involved in the conflict without a lawful and strategic basis, prioritising national interests, long-term planning, and international cooperation in a complex and uncertain geopolitical landscape.

Pray: for peace, restraint, and discernment among leaders, securing stability and safeguarding global energy and security. (Matthew 5:9)
More: news.sky.com/story/politics-latest-wes-streeting-doctors-strike-labour-keir-starmer-iran-war-12593360

Energy debate intensifies as UK faces rising bills and supply concerns

There is growing pressure on the Government to reconsider its ban on new North Sea oil and gas exploration as energy prices rise and concerns increase over supply security. Recent polling indicates that around half of Britons support lifting the ban, particularly amid fears that international conflict, including tensions involving Iran, could disrupt energy supplies and drive up household costs. Public opinion also reflects strong backing for government intervention if energy bills continue to rise, with many calling for subsidies or increased taxation on energy companies to ease the burden on households. However, others warn that such measures could increase national debt and place further strain on public finances. Some argue that expanding domestic oil and gas production would strengthen economic resilience and reduce reliance on imports, while others maintain that new drilling would not significantly lower prices. Environmental groups continue to advocate for long-term investment in cleaner energy solutions instead. [See https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yx4e9d8pdo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yx4e9d8pdo)

Pray: for just energy policies balancing affordability, stewardship, and security, protecting households and future generations wisely. (Psalm 24:1)
More: www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2191321/britons-message-keir-starmer-dont-waste-oil-gas

New treatment offers hope for children with rare cancers

A groundbreaking new cancer trial is offering fresh hope to children and young people facing rare and aggressive cancers. The study, known as 'Mighty', will recruit up to sixty patients across the UK and the US to test CAR T-cell immunotherapy, a cutting-edge treatment which trains a patient's own immune system to recognise and destroy cancer cells. With research centred at University College London, the trial focuses on cancers that are often resistant to conventional treatments. These include rhabdomyosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma, and other soft tissue sarcomas, which primarily affect children and young people. Researchers say that childhood cancers behave differently from adult cancers, requiring more targeted and less harmful treatments. CAR T-cell therapy has already shown promise in some blood cancers and is now being explored for solid tumours. Experts believe this innovative approach could significantly improve outcomes, offering renewed hope to families where existing treatments have failed or cancer has returned.

Pray: for healing breakthroughs, strength for families, and success for treatments bringing hope to young patients. (Jeremiah 30:17)
More: news.sky.com/story/new-treatment-offers-hope-for-children-with-rare-and-aggressive-cancers-13529184

Iceland boss offers job to man sacked by Waitrose for confronting shoplifter

A long-serving Waitrose employee has been offered a new job after being dismissed for confronting a shoplifter. Walker Smith, who had worked at the Clapham Junction branch for seventeen years, was sacked after intervening in the attempted theft of Easter eggs, which led to a brief struggle. He later expressed regret but said he acted out of frustration after witnessing frequent thefts over several years without being permitted to intervene. Lord Richard Walker, executive chairman of Iceland, publicly offered Mr Smith a job, praising his initiative. The case has sparked wider debate, with some politicians criticising Waitrose's decision as unjust, while others emphasise the importance of prioritising staff safety. Waitrose maintains that its policies are designed to protect employees and customers, discouraging staff from engaging directly with shoplifters due to potential risks. The retailer stated that proper procedures were followed, including an appeals process.

Pray: for justice, wisdom for employers, and protection for workers facing rising crime and difficult decisions. (Isaiah 1:17)
More: www.itv.com/news/2026-04-07/iceland-boss-offers-job-to-man-sacked-by-waitrose-for-confronting-shoplifter

Record rise in UK child sextortion cases

A concerning rise in online sextortion cases among children in the UK has been revealed, with nearly 400 incidents reported to the Report Remove helpline last year - a 23% increase. Alarming, 98% of these reports came from boys aged 14 to 17, highlighting a significant and growing vulnerability among young males. Sextortion involves criminals coercing children into sharing sexual images and then blackmailing them - either for money or further content - under threat of exposure. The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) confirmed a sharp increase in overall reports of sexual imagery, with over 1,100 verified cases in 2025 alone. Experts warn that shame, fear, and isolation often prevent young people from seeking help, while the psychological impact can be severe and long-lasting. Encouragingly, increased reporting suggests growing awareness and willingness to seek support. There are calls for stronger safeguards, including technology to prevent image-sharing and better-targeted education to protect vulnerable children.

Pray: for protection over children online, courage to speak out, and wisdom to stop exploitation. (Psalm 9:9)
More: www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/children-sextortion-online-abuse-iwf-childline-b2952879.html

Church of England prepares apology for forced adoptions

The Church of England is preparing to issue a formal apology for its involvement in forced adoptions which affected tens of thousands of unmarried mothers between 1949 and 1976. During this period, many women were sent to church-run mother and baby homes, where social stigma and institutional practices led to babies being taken for adoption, often without genuine consent. Testimonies from women such as Jan Doyle highlight the harsh conditions and lasting trauma experienced. Sent to a home as a pregnant teenager, she recalls physical hardship and emotional pain, with her son taken shortly after birth. They were only reunited decades later. A draft apology acknowledges the Church's role in a system now recognised as harmful, expressing deep sorrow for the lifelong impact on mothers and children. Researchers and campaigners believe such an apology could help reshape understanding of this painful history and bring some measure of healing. Pressure is also increasing on the Government to issue its own formal apology.

Pray: for healing, repentance, and restoration for those affected, and for truth to bring lasting freedom. (Psalm 147:3)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2e4eqq7lo

Europe

NATO: Rutte's difficult task after Trump's threats to leave NATO

Mark Rutte faces a critical moment as he visits Washington to engage with Donald Trump amid renewed uncertainty over the NATO alliance. Tensions have grown because of disagreements over military involvement in Iran and concerns about burden-sharing among member states. The fact that most European nations have resisted Trump's appeals to support the USA militarily has prompted him to lash out against them and issue threats about leaving the alliance. Rutte's priority will be to reassure Trump while allowing member states to maintain independent positions on Iran. His diplomatic approach, though controversial among some allies, is seen by observers as necessary in navigating a fragile geopolitical landscape. One commentator has said, 'There is clearly an effort to steer the administration towards a more rational approach to NATO. If Rutte can calm tensions at a moment when the stakes are so high, then he should at least try.'

Pray: that Rutte's meeting with Trump will foster unity, wisdom, and cooperation, and confirm the alliance rather than weakening it. (Ephesians 4:3)

More: www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/04/08/rutte-meets-trump-in-washington-amid-us-threat-to-leave-nato

Hungary: Vance supports Orbán as he faces crucial elections

With elections due to take place on 12 April, Viktor Orbán is facing a significant challenge after sixteen years in power, as opposition leader Péter Magyar is well ahead in most opinion polls. While visiting Budapest, JD Vance has publicly expressed support for Orbán, while sharply criticising the EU. He also repeated unsubstantiated claims that Kyiv had become involved in the election campaign. Orbán recently accused Ukraine of a 'terror attack' when Serbia announced that explosives had been found near a gas pipeline, but Magyar claims that this was staged to boost Orbán's chances of re-election. Considerable attention is being paid to the country's difficulties in accessing oil and gas, and also to Orbán's close ties with both Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin. Recent scandals appear to have dented his popularity: private telephone conversations have been leaked between foreign minister Szijjártó and top Russian officials, and transcripts suggest that he regularly informs them about confidential discussions at EU summits. The outcome of the election is likely to shape Hungary's future role within Europe, as well as its domestic political landscape.

Pray: that truth, justice, and wise leadership will guide Hungary's future decisions after the elections. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cyv16lq2rp1o

Worldwide

Iran / USA: ceasefire is announced, but Israel continues to bombard Lebanon

In the end, cooler heads prevailed – at least for now. A fragile pause has emerged in the conflict between the USA and Iran after Donald Trump announced a two-week ceasefire to allow negotiations towards a potential agreement. The arrangement includes reopening the Strait of Hormuz and suspending hostilities, offering temporary relief after escalating threats of major military action. While markets responded positively, significant uncertainty remains, as many key issues are unresolved. Reactions within the US and elsewhere have been mixed, with many saying that Trump's threat that 'a whole civilisation will die tonight' could be regarded as a war crime. One commentator has said, 'A nation that once styled itself as a force for stability around the globe is now shaking the foundations of the international order. A president who has seemingly relished shattering norms and traditions in domestic politics is now doing the same on the world stage.' Meanwhile, Israel has continued its attacks on Lebanon, saying that its conflict with Hezbollah is not affected by the ceasefire: [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0j6d538l6qo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0j6d538l6qo)

Pray: that this ceasefire will lead to lasting peace, stability, and reconciliation. Pray that Israel's continuing attacks on Lebanon will also be paused. (Colossians 3:15)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwyvp55xrlro

Mozambique: IS insurgency is revitalised after USAID cuts

In northern Mozambique, communities are facing renewed violence as Islamist insurgents linked to IS reassert control in vulnerable areas. Armed groups have openly entered villages, spreading fear and targeting civilians. The gas-rich northern Cabo Delgado region has been ravaged by eight years of killing and land grabs, causing widespread displacement and suffering. The decision by Donald Trump to halt USAID, including cuts to development and humanitarian programmes, has left communities with fewer resources, increasing poverty and making young people more vulnerable to recruitment. Hospitals, food distribution, and local livelihood projects have all been affected, deepening hardship for families already struggling to survive. IS confidence has been re-energised, as shown by attacks in September when dozens of men, mostly Christians, were beheaded. Despite the region's significant natural gas potential, insecurity continues to hinder development, leaving many caught between violence, displacement, and economic uncertainty.

Pray: that vulnerable communities will be protected and receive aid, stability, and renewed hope. Pray that the decision to halt USAID will be reversed. (Psalm 10:17)

More: edition.cnn.com/2025/11/21/africa/mozambique-isis-insurgency-us-aid-cuts-intl-cmd

Nigeria: locals dispute army claim of 31 rescued after Easter attack

Confusion and concern have followed a deadly Easter attack on a church in Kaduna state, as local residents dispute the army's claim that 31 abducted civilians were rescued. The military reported that troops engaged attackers in a fierce firefight, forcing them to flee and leaving hostages behind. However, community leaders insist that those taken remain missing, with no evidence of any rescue. The attack, which took place during Easter celebrations, left at least five people dead according to official figures, though local sources say the toll may be higher. Church leaders and community representatives have called on the army to clarify the situation and account for those reportedly freed. Northern Nigeria continues to face frequent violence from armed groups and bandits, with churches and Christian communities often affected. Despite military efforts and international support, insecurity remains widespread, with ongoing kidnappings and attacks deepening fear among residents. The incident highlights the urgent need for protection, transparency, and lasting peace in vulnerable regions.

Pray: for protection over believers, truth in reporting, and God's peace overcoming violence and fear in Nigeria. (Psalm 27:1)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgld111d9jpo

DR Congo / USA: agreement on deporting migrants

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has agreed to receive migrants deported from the USA who are not Congolese nationals, as part of a new arrangement beginning this month. Authorities in Kinshasa have established temporary reception facilities, with logistical support provided by the US. Officials, denying that the scheme is permanent, have stated that deportees will not be forcibly returned to their countries of origin. The US is also negotiating a minerals deal with DR Congo to help gain access to its vast reserves of key metals such as cobalt, tantalum, lithium and copper. The agreement is the latest example of a broader policy; five other African nations have already accepted third-country migrants and probably received at least \$32 million in aid in return. However, the approach has drawn criticism from human rights groups, who question its legality and implications for vulnerable individuals.

Pray: that vulnerable migrants will be treated with dignity, safety, and compassionate care. (Leviticus 19:34)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c20d35eejxgo

Cuba: many prisoners released as US blockade continues

On Good Friday, families gathered outside prisons in Havana as authorities began releasing more than two thousand prisoners in what was described as a humanitarian gesture ahead of Holy Week. Emotional reunions brought joy and relief to many, as relatives embraced loved ones freed after months or years of separation. However, human rights groups expressed concern that few, if any, of those released were individuals detained for political reasons, notably those involved in mass protests in 2021. The releases come amid economic hardship and fuel shortages caused largely by the oil blockade imposed by the USA. Cubans were offered a brief moment of relief when Donald Trump allowed a Russian ship carrying enough fuel for ten days to reach the island; a second tanker is on the way. While the release of the prisoners brought hope to many families, questions remain about broader justice, transparency, and long-term change within the prison system and wider society.

Pray: that those imprisoned unjustly will be freed, and that families will experience lasting hope. Pray for relationships with the USA to improve quickly. (Psalm 146:7)
More: apnews.com/article/cuba-prisoners-released-havana-prisons-843f4cceab3786c064919af0a5250947

North Korea: Kim's sister praises apology by South Korean president

Tensions remain delicate following a recent drone-related incident between South Korea and North Korea. South Korea's president, Lee Jae-myung, expressed regret over actions which contributed to heightened tensions, describing them as unintended and acknowledging the need to prevent recurrence. Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of Kim Jong-un, has welcomed his statement as a constructive step, while also issuing a firm warning against future provocations. The exchange highlights the fragile nature of relations between the two nations, where small incidents can quickly escalate into broader security concerns. Despite the cautious tone, underlying mistrust remains, and both sides face ongoing pressure to balance national security with efforts to maintain peace and stability in a region long marked by division and periodic confrontation.

Pray: that peace, restraint, and constructive dialogue will guide both Koreas forward. (Hebrews 12:14)
More: asianews.network/powerful-sister-of-north-korean-leader-calls-south-korean-president-lee-honest-over-drone-incident-regret/

Argentina: new evidence suggests deal between Milei and cryptocurrency provider

Federal prosecutors in Argentina are investigating allegations linking Javier Milei to the promotion of the LIBRA cryptocurrency in 2025. Phone records reportedly show seven calls between the president and entrepreneur Mauricio Novelli around the time of a social media post endorsing the token, raising questions about prior coordination. Recovered documents also suggest a financial arrangement tied to endorsements and advisory roles, though Milei has not been formally charged and has not publicly responded to these claims. After his endorsement, the value of the cryptocurrency soared but then crashed, leading to substantial investor losses. The investigation has also drawn attention to the disbanding of a government task unit which had been examining related issues. Parliamentary hearings are expected to explore the matter further, as concerns grow over transparency, accountability, and governance.

Pray: that truth, integrity, and justice will prevail, and that these allegations will be thoroughly investigated. (Proverbs 11:3)
More: cryptonews.com/news/milei-libra-token-probe-new-evidence/

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